

THE SILENT



NEWS-LETTER

And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to lay his hand upon him. And he took him aside from the multitude privately, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat, and touched his tongue; and looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened. And his ears were opened, and the bond of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain. And they were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well.—St. Mark VII:32—37.

Published monthly in the interest of our Episcopal Missions to the Deaf in the Diocese of Maryland. Circulated among those who are interested in Church Work among the Deaf. Supported by voluntary contributions. Address all communications to Rev. Oliver J. Whildin, Missionary, 605 Wilson Ave., Roland Park, Baltimore, Maryland.

October, 1925.

Vol. II. No.1.

Editorials.

The present issue, Vol. II. No. 1., of the Silent News-Letter marks the first Anniversary of its publication. It was started one year ago this month to fill what we considered to be a clear and distinct need,---that of unifying the widely scattered members of the Missions into one family of kindred thought, sympathy and effort and of urging the hearing members of the church to a friendly and helpful co-operation in the Work.

Judging from the kindlier atmosphere pervading the silent circles, the greater enthusiasm, the warm personal expressions of approval, the many letters of commendation and the support given by both the Deaf and their hearing friends, it appears to have succeeded in some measure at least in its mission.

Copies of each monthly issue have been distributed freely, as bread upon the waters, without distinction to race or creed. But there is yet much to do,---the ever widening boundary of God's kingdom knows no end!

The following friends have sent in their voluntary subscriptions since the last issue:---S.P. Luck, H.S. Mills, A.T. Knoechel, J.W. Reynolds and G. Van Cleve, J.H. Borden, W.J. Waller, F.W. Neve, H.F. Silver, C.A. Chrisman, J. Hedrick, J.C. Drury, S.R. Schuyler, W.C.L. Taliaferro, H.T. Tiffany, A.J.R. Goldsmith, R.C. Miller, R.S. Wadsworth, H.A. Phillips, M.N. Marshall, B.F. Nevitt, L.I. Lamb, G.R. Cushman and C. Och.

Each and every subscription received for the Silent News-Letter constitutes a real and vital contribution to the work of the Church Missions to the Deaf. We, therefore, urge all who may receive a copy to send in their subscription.

The Deaf of the whole Church will undoubtedly unite with the Deaf of the Diocese of Maryland in their sincere congratulations to the Most Reverend John Gardner Murray, D.D., Bishop of Maryland, upon his election by the 48th Tri-Ennial Convention, now in session in New Orleans, to the exalted and responsible position of Presiding Bishop and Executive of the National Council of the Church. It is an honor which our good Bishop richly deserves.

Deafness is more common than is generally supposed. By the "Deaf" as a class is usually meant only those who cannot hear the voice, and who, having thus been disabled from birth or very early childhood, cannot attend ordinary schools but must be taught by special methods. Any family may have a deaf child.---Silent Mission Helper.

A Little More History.

(Continued from the September Issue.)

This is the last chapter in the story of Emmanuel Mission to the Deaf of Cumberland, Md. It is a typical story, which other Missionaries will recognize as descriptive, with minor variations, of the ordinary experience in founding Missions to the Deaf in the United States. If the reading of it has given pleasure, and, above all, if it has called forth a single prayer of blessing upon the Work from the speaking lips we shall have felt well repaid in writing it.

There is little more to write. The climax seems to have been reached

With the first Service of Evening Prayer and the first Service of Baptism on the memorable evening of the 17th and the almost fatal morning of the 18th of October, 1899. Following these events the Missionary settled down to regular routine. His first act was to establish monthly services which have been maintained to this day. During the long period of twenty-six years he has baptized whole families of Deaf people, including a grandson of the elder Metty; presented nearly the entire Deaf population of Cumberland for confirmation; married some of them, buried others of them and rejoiced and sorrowed with all of them. In this arduous but pleasant work he has had the helpful sympathy and hearty cooperation of the successive Bishops of Maryland, Bishop Paret and Bishop Murray, and of the successive Rectors of Emmanuel Church, the Reverend Doctors Howden, Jefferys, Hicks and Beavin. He has had but to say the word and immediately the church has been opened, warmed and lighted for him and his people. Once or twice a train wreck, a flood or the fury of the elements would make it necessary to postpone a service; once or twice a darkened church would greet him because the faithful sexton had failed to receive his message and had "gone fishing;" once he married a couple in the parlor of his hotel; once or twice he assembled his people in a private house, but these deviations from the usual routine were comparatively few. His work of Pastoral Visitation has given him a cordial welcome into the homes and places of employment of all the Deaf, not only of Cumberland but also of the surrounding towns of Ridgely, Lonaconing, Midland, Frostburg, Mt. Savage, Westernport, etc.

Surely his paths have been cast in pleasant places and he feels very greatly blessed in having such interesting work among such faithful people.

Scripture Text for this Issue:--"Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf people that have ears." --Isaiah 43:8.

News and Comment.

A bronze replica of the Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet statue was unveiled on the grounds of the first School for the Deaf, Hartford, Connecticut, on September 7, 1925. The original statue has graced the campus of Gallaudet College for the Deaf, Washington, D.C., for thirty-five years and is a rare and beautiful work of art. It was executed by the noted sculptor, Daniel C. French, and represents the Rev. Mr. Gallaudet in the attitude of teaching his first pupil, young Alice Cogswell, by means of the manual alphabet.

The great needs of the present are:--

1. The establishment of Homes for the Aged and Infirm Deaf.
2. The removal of discrimination against the Deaf in the operation of the Compensation Labor Law.
3. The removal of discrimination against the Deaf in the operation of the Motor Vehicle Law.
4. A Uniform Compulsory Education Law requiring all Deaf children to attend some school for the Deaf.
5. Appropriations to enable capable graduates of Schools for the Deaf to obtain a college education.
6. An Imposter Law making it a serious misdemeanor for hearing persons to solicit alms on the plea of deafness.
7. Establishment of State Bureaus of Social Uplift and Employment.

A number of states, notably Pennsylvania, Minnesota, North Carolina, Illinois and Ohio have some or all of these provisions in operation.

We congratulate our Rector, the Rev. Dr. Abbott, upon his appointment as a member of the National Council of the Church. The Rev. Dr. Abbott was also nominated as a candidate for the Bishopric of Mexico.

The Year Book for 1925 of Grace & St. Peter's Church, Baltimore, is out. On pages 80-83 and 107-109 will be found sketches of the history and work of the Church's Mission to the Deaf.

We rejoice to say that all our Missions are carrying out in full the programmes of Services and Social Work arranged for them.

Rev. G.F.Flick, a former Assistant, addressed an interested congregation at Grace & St. Peter's Mission on Sunday, September 27th.